I. Legislation on Archives

(20) Resolution by Maharashtra State Archives

"Resolved that this body requests the State Governments to enact a law to bring under over all supervision of the State Archival service, records preserved by private bodies like maths, temples, societies, libraries and museums in their respective States".

Explanatory note:

Collections in the possession of private bodies remained unclassified and uncared. These are seldom scientifically classified and arranged for permanent preservation. Documentation and inventories are also seldom prepared. Rules governing access to these records by the research scholars are also not common. To improve these conditions, inspection and supervision by the State Archives is necessary.

Standing Committee's views:

At its 41st Session, the Commission vide Resolution Nos. VII and VIII have already suggested that the authorities governing the maths, mosques, waqfs, gurdwaras, churches etc., may allow access to their respective records, and have also appealed to them to deposit their records, if possible, with the State Archives Departments or Learned Institutions to ensure their better preservation. As for bringing all such bodies, libraries and museums, under the supervisory control of the State Archives, the desired result could be obtained by an administrative order as far as the institutions

which receive financial assistance from the State Governments are concerned. However, it is clear that persuation, technical advice and monetary assistance (or purchase) would be more effective in preserving private records than "any method that might bear the complexion of coercion", as the Tara Chand Committee puts it - unless and until there is proper legislation empowering the Government to take over private records of really great value. 'Supervision' may not be effective without the power to take over the records if necessary.

(21) Resolution by Thiru S. Singarajan

"Resolved that the Government of India be requested to take immediate action to introduce the promised legislation on Archives urgently".

Explanatory note:

The Government of India and State Governments were requested by the Commission in 1968 at its 39th Session, to introduce necessary legislation on the administration of archives without any further delay, in line with the recommendations of the Committee on Archival Legislation. The State Governments are awaiting the introduction of a bill on archival legislation in Parliament by the Government of India. For a long time now, the Government of India have not introduced any bill, on archival legislation, they may be requested for the early introduction of the bill on the archival legislation in Parliament.